

### REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. Independent claims are 1, 11, 20, and 26.

The examiner rejected claims 1, 11 and 20 as having been directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Applicants have amended the claims to indicate that the first endpoint and the second endpoint are computer systems, and thus statutory subject matter under 35 U.S.C. §101. No new matter was added.

The examiner uses Richards to reject claims 1-2, 4-5, 10-12, 14 and 19 as having been anticipated.

Claims 1 and 11, as amended, recite "establishing a second session between the destination computer system and the service, the service maintaining the second session if the first session is temporarily lost and re-establishing the virtual connection when then first session is re-established," or similar language. Richards neither describes nor suggests this quoted claim feature.

Richards merely discloses "(o)ne of the first computer or the second computer can reestablish a connection in the case that the connection is interrupted." (see col. 1, lines 29-33) However, Richards fails to describe or suggest that the virtual connection is maintained and re-established by the service upon re-establishment of the first session. Accordingly, claims 1 and 11 are not anticipated by Richards.

The examiner uses Bereiter to reject claims 20 and 21 as having been anticipated.

Claim 20, as amended, recites "if the second computer system is not located behind a connectivity barrier, a transport level communications connection is established with the second computer system." Bereiter neither describes nor suggests this quoted claim feature.

Bereiter is totally absent of "transport," "level," and "transport level communications connection." Accordingly, claim 20 is not anticipated by Bereiter.

The examiner uses Richards in view of Alkhatib to reject claims 3, 6-8, and 15-17 as having been obvious.

Claims 1 and 11 are not rendered obvious by Richards in view of Alkhatib. Claims 3, 6-8 and 15-17 depend upon, and further limit, claims 1 and 11, respectively. Accordingly, claims 3, 6-8 and 15-17 are not rendered obvious by Richards in view of Alkhatib.

The examiner uses Richards in view of Alkhatib and Selgas to reject claims 9 and 18 as having been obvious.

Claims 1 and 11 are not rendered obvious by Richards in view of Alkhatib and Selgas. Claims 9 and 10 depend upon, and further limit, claims 1 and 11, respectively. Accordingly, claims 9 and 18 are not rendered obvious by Richards in view of Alkhatib and Selgas.

The examiner uses Bereiter in view of Alkhatib to reject claims 22-25 as having been obvious.

Claim 20 is not rendered obvious by Bereiter in view of Alkhatib. Claims 22-25, depend upon, and further limit, claim 20. Accordingly, Claims 22-25 are not rendered obvious by Bereiter in view of Alkhatib.

The examiner uses Richards in view of Bereiter to reject claims 26-28 as having been obvious.

Claim 20 is not rendered obvious by Richards in view of Bereiter. Claims 26-28 depend upon, and further limit, claim 20. Accordingly, claims 26-28 are not rendered obvious by Richards in view of Bereiter.

The examiner has rejected claims 29 and 30 as being unpatentable over Richards in view of Bereiter and Alkhatib.

Claim 20 is not rendered obvious by over Richards in view of Bereiter and Alkhatib. Claims 29 and 30 depend upon, and further limit, claim 20. Accordingly, claims 29 and 30 are not rendered obvious by Richards in view of Bereiter and Alkhatib.

The examiner uses Richards in view of Bereiter to reject claims 26-28 as having been obvious.

Claim 20 is not rendered obvious by Richards in view of Bereiter. Claims 26-28 depend upon, and further limit, claim 20. Accordingly, claims 26-28 are not rendered obvious by Richards in view of Bereiter.

The examiner uses Richards in view of Bereiter and Alkhatib to reject claims 29 and 30 as having been obvious.

Claim 20 is not rendered obvious by Richards in view of Bereiter and Alkhatib. Claim 29 and 30 depend upon, and further limit, claim 20. Accordingly, claims 29 and 30 are not rendered obvious by Richards in view of Bereiter and Alkhatib.

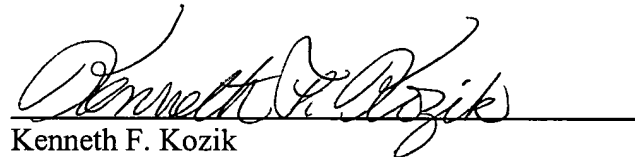
It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, reference 10559-227001.

Respectfully submitted,

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